

# Power Criticizes Oswald Handling

Sen. Charles McNamara, D-Calif., today told a Senate committee that Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy, would have been slain in Dallas had he been under the control of federal agents.

McNamara used the Oswald case to back up a plea to make assaults upon federal crime (the assassination of Kennedy) had been a violation, jurisdiction, when under the Sec. of the FBI and the following the assassin.

McNamara said he would like to see the police department two days later. Police Chief Jesse Curry had no comment on the FBI's remarks.

The FBI chief's testimony was given at a House appropriation committee's closed meeting on March 4. It was made public by the committee late Monday. In his testimony, Hoover also repeated a claim made last year by the Warren Commission that Oswald was a "highly safe risk" because of a report from the State Department.

McNamara's comments were repeated to the committee by questioning. The FBI director appeared on the panel headed by Sen. J. Lee McClellan of New York to make a request for budget cuts by the coming fiscal year and the assassination of Kennedy was one instance of an overwhelming FBI work load.

## DEMANDS GREAT

"Tremendous demands were placed on our manpower as a result of the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent work."

The attached article was taken from the DALLAS TIMES HERALD, dated 17 May, 1965

Sen. Lee Harvey Oswald, McNamara said.

He said the FBI moved its agents into Dallas immediately and eventually conducted "about 1,000 interviews" before the probe was completed.

"As an aftermath of the assassination, we assisted the Secret Service in the protection of the President. We furnished a total of 100 special agents on 14 occasions," Hoover testified.

The FBI director gave his description of Oswald as a thoroughly safe risk although no member of the committee raised the issue.

McNamara's plea for new legislation covering assaults upon the President went unexplained since the Appropriation Committee he approached before is not supposed to write substantive legislation. It can only appropriate funds for services authorized by other congressional committees.

## NOW FEDERAL OFFENSE

The FBI director said the President writes such a law, it would guard against divided jurisdiction between the FBI and the State Department service—but not the matter.

Personal attacks upon the President, including assassination, would constitute federal offenses. The assassination of President Kennedy was murder under state criminal statutes and responsibility rested with local law enforcement.

McNamara had earlier said that the FBI had been "overwhelmed" by the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent work.

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DATES: 2-18-65

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